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potential addition to the  
blue ridge parkway / virginia-north carolina

# fisher peak

study of alternatives

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The basin on the Virginia side of Fisher Peak is a regionally significant scenic and recreational resource and a locally significant watershed for the city of Galax. The area is also closely associated with nationally significant Blue Ridge music traditions and would provide an excellent rustic setting for the celebration and interpretation of that music. The addition of this study area to the Blue Ridge Parkway would help protect the pastoral scene visible from the parkway, expand the land base available for public recreation, and create an opportunity for visitors to learn about Blue Ridge culture through its distinctive music.

This Study of Alternatives considers four alternatives for the site, ranging from scenic protection of a portion of the basin to the development of a major Blue Ridge music performance, interpretive, and recreation center as part of the Blue Ridge Parkway.



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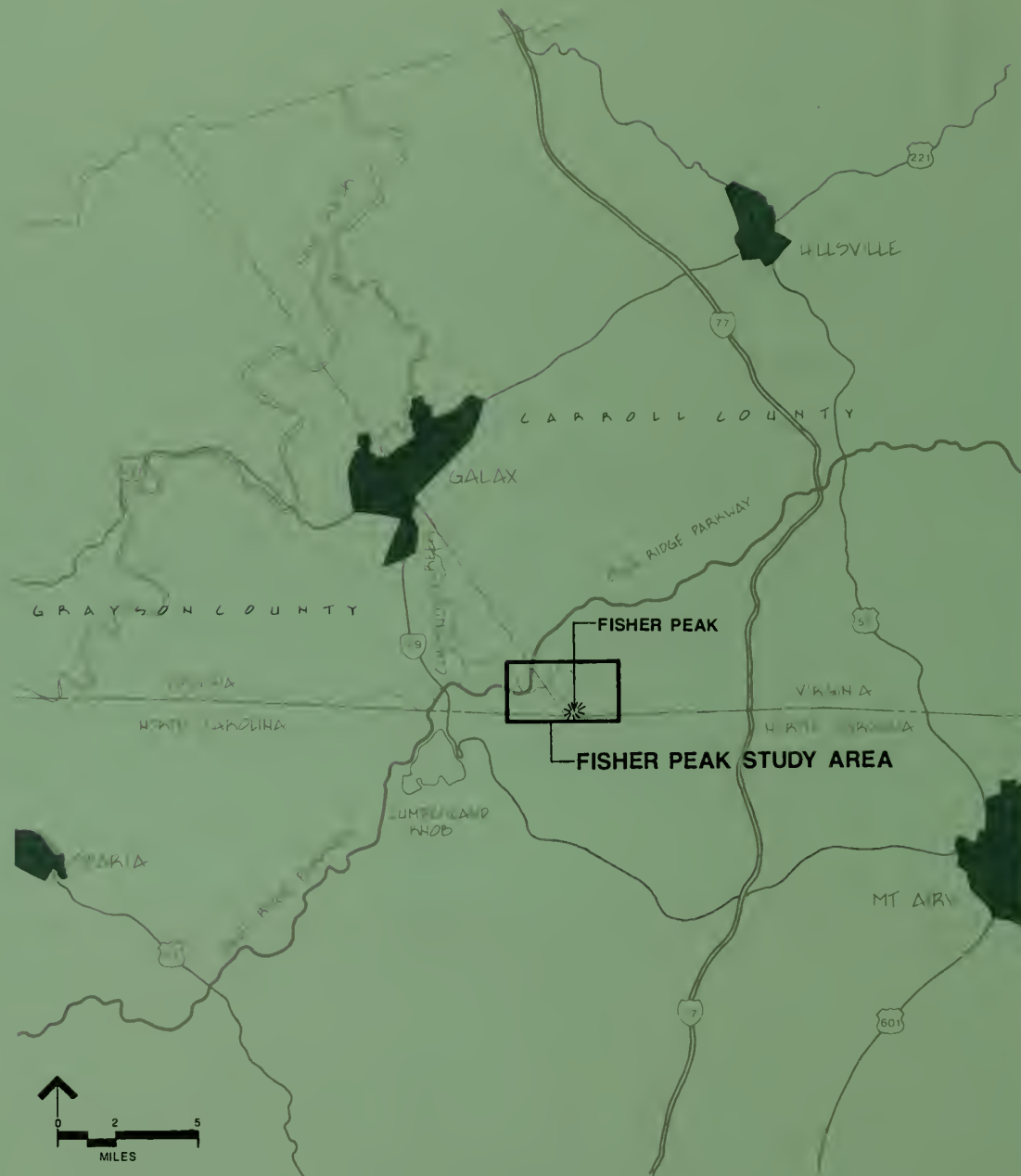
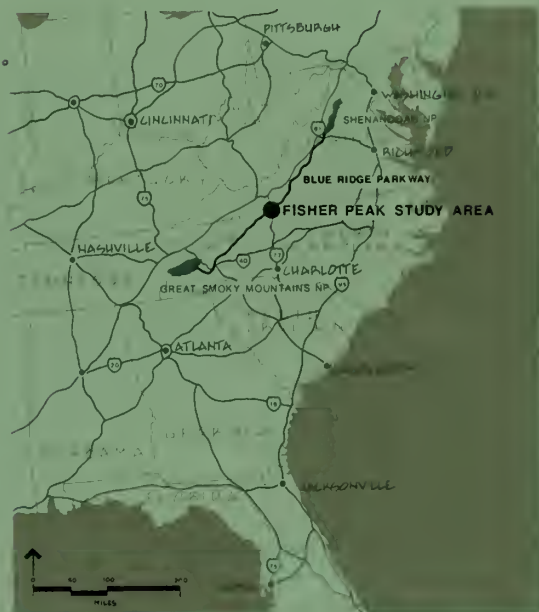
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# FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA REGION

## BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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# FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA

## VICINITY

## BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## introduction

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The Fisher Peak area of Grayson and Carroll counties in southwestern Virginia and Surry County in North Carolina adjoins the Blue Ridge Parkway and has been considered for public use for some 50 years. During early stages of parkway development, National Park Service (NPS) planners envisioned an extensive recreation area, complete with campground, picnic area, lake, and other facilities, in the basin below the 3,565-foot peak. Subsequent development of commercially operated campgrounds and other visitor services on private land near the parkway eliminated the need for overnight camping and restaurant services at this site, and the early plans were abandoned.

The basin under study is drained by the East Fork of Chestnut Creek, from which the nearby city of Galax takes its municipal water. After the National Park Service abandoned plans to develop Fisher Peak, the city acquired some 1,016 acres of the basin (about half the total land area) to protect the Chestnut Creek watershed and to provide a site for a water reservoir. The city has since determined that the streamflow of Chestnut Creek is adequate for its needs and that a reservoir is not necessary. There remains, however, a deep concern for protection of the Chestnut Creek watershed.

The idea for public use of the Fisher Peak area lay dormant until the summer of 1986, when the Southwestern Virginia Economic Development Commission suggested that a revival of NPS recreation plans for Fisher Peak could stimulate economic benefits for the region. Concurrently, but independently, parkway management was working with the National Council for the Traditional Arts on a concept for a facility to interpret and commemorate the traditional music of the southern Appalachians. The National Park Service had considered locating this facility at the Rocky Knob recreation area, some 37 miles north of Fisher Peak,

primarily because the necessary land base was already in federal ownership.

When the regional commission learned of the music center concept, it began promoting Fisher Peak as the most desirable area for such development. The commission encouraged support by state government officials and by Virginia 6th District Congressman Frederick C. Boucher. Congressman Boucher responded by including \$25,000 in the National Park Service FY 1988 budget for planning for the Fisher Peak area. A companion study of the economic impacts of development in the area is being conducted by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Any feasible proposal to provide for public recreation and resource protection in the Fisher Peak basin would require the use of at least some of the 1,016 acres owned by the city of Galax. The Galax City Council has given its cautious endorsement to the concept of a traditional music center in that area but has insisted that development should not have detrimental effects on the Chestnut Creek watershed and that center activities should not compete with or detract from the Old Fiddlers' Convention held annually in Galax. The National Park Service shares both concerns.

# significance

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## FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA

The basin on the Virginia side of Fisher Peak is regionally significant for its scenic quality and the potential for outdoor recreation provided by public lands, and it is locally significant because of its value to the city of Galax as a municipal watershed.

Fisher Peak is a highly visible regional landmark and point of reference for the people living in a multicounty region centering on Galax, Virginia, and Mount Airy, North Carolina. Its northern basin is an area of pastoral lowlands tightly circumscribed by forested slopes and a series of 3,000-foot peaks and ridges. The lands immediately adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway motor road are currently used as pasture, but several additional acres of gently sloping pastoral landscape are reverting to forest. Just behind this foreground the land rises abruptly into heavily vegetated ridges harboring the headwaters of the East Fork of Chestnut Creek. In all, the basin encompasses approximately 2,000 acres.

Fisher Peak was a traditional destination for outings by residents of the region. The city of Galax has closed its watershed lands to public

recreation, but there is evidence of continuing unauthorized recreational use of the area. The 1,016 acres of protected watershed owned by the city of Galax are entirely wooded with a thick understory of laurel and rhododendron. The trees are primarily deciduous — oak, tulip poplar, maple, and others — with a few concentrations of conifers along the streams.

The Galax/Mount Airy region is a nationally recognized center of Blue Ridge music, and the Fisher Peak area, in the heart of the region, has close associations with this music tradition. The area is most closely associated with fiddler Tommy Jarrell, who grew up at the base of Fisher Peak in Surry County, North Carolina, and became one of the first National Heritage Fellows in recognition of his contribution to American folk culture. The basin of the East Fork of Chestnut Creek would provide an excellent rustic setting for the celebration and interpretation of traditional Blue Ridge music, which is in itself a nationally significant nonmaterial cultural resource.

Traditional music could potentially be interpreted at several points along the parkway, but the Fisher Peak study area is an outstanding location because

of its proximity to established fiddlers' conventions, dances, festivals, and other community-based musical activities in the Galax-Mount Airy region, its highly scenic setting, and the potential to marry nationally significant music interpretation with regionally important outdoor recreation at the site.



## TRADITIONAL BLUE RIDGE MUSIC

The national significance of Blue Ridge music is well established. For instance, the National Council for the Traditional Arts has written:

The people who settled the Blue Ridge counties and their descendants made enduring contributions to the performing arts of their nation . . . . There is here a record of performing arts, particularly music, which stretches from the colonial period to the mid-20th century. Seen from a preservationist viewpoint, it is an amazingly intact record. . . . It is a living resource, still vibrant with quality.

The National Park Service has also identified folk music and folk dance as nationally significant cultural themes in its systemwide plan.

The people of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia long have been recognized as a rich source of folk music and dance. Around the turn of the 20th century, scholarly folklorists began combing the hills for remnants of early ballads and songs from the British Isles and American songs that illustrated the evolution of English balladry.

Hundreds of songs were collected and documented in those early efforts. (Perhaps the best known is Cecil Sharp's *English Folk Songs of the Southern Appalachians*). A second wave of collectors entered the mountains in the mid-1920s after the invention of phonograph records. Okeh Records, the Victor Talking Machine Company, and others discovered a national market for recordings of what they called "old familiar tunes" and "hillbilly music." The companies sent men into the southern mountains with portable recording equipment to audition local musicians for the new industry. Unlike the academic ballad collectors who tended to shun any music that seemed tainted by jazz, blues, ragtime, Tin Pan Alley, or other modern music, the commercial collectors wanted "upbeat" material that would sell; consequently, they concentrated on instrumental music and sentimental songs. Again, hundreds of tunes and scores of musicians were documented on wax recordings.

Between the scholars and the recording companies, an impressive diversity of music was collected. The music reflected the history, values, and talents of Blue Ridge communities. There were songs like " Lord Bateman," which dated back to

Medieval England, "The Wreck of the Old 97" about a train accident in southern Virginia, and local variations on the sinking of the *Titanic* and the murder of Mary Fagan — national news stories put to music and concluded with a moral lesson. The growth of industrialization in the mountains and economic hard times also were described in the music, mostly in topical songs like "No Depression in Heaven" and "Weave Room Blues." The importance of the church in mountain life was represented in the variety of religious music collected, including choral singing, shape-note music (an older style of congregational singing), and gospel quartet singing. Dance music was among the commercial companies' best sellers and included Appalachian versions of jigs and reels originally from Europe, such as "Soldiers Joy," plus home-grown tunes like "Ragtime Annie" and "Pig in a Pen." The area around Galax, Virginia, and Mount Airy, North Carolina, produced dozens of local fiddle and banjo string bands for the early recordings.

In the 1920s and 1930s the commercial recording industry combined with the radio broadcast industry (also a mass media developed in the 1920s) to put a national spotlight on many local musicians.

The Carter Family of Maces Springs, Virginia, is a prime example of family- and community- oriented musicians who became overnight national stars. Ironically, becoming stars required them to move away from their traditional homes and to adjust their music to the national audience. But traditional southern mountain music became a fundamental source of today's country and western, bluegrass, and other commercial music styles and the billion-dollar popular music industry.

Remarkably, the community-based music tradition continues in the Blue Ridge today. Although the Blue Ridge is just as saturated with nationally marketed commercial music as other areas of the United States, local musicians not only have retained older ways of making music, but have even adapted popular music to local styles. The Galax/Mount Airy region is especially active in carrying on music traditions. There are many communities in the area with weekly dances at schools and VFW halls featuring live string bands. The annual fiddlers' conventions at Galax and Mount Airy draw tens of thousands of people from the region and avid fans from across the country. Folklorists from state governments, the Library of Congress American Folklife Center,

Ferrum College's Blue Ridge Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and other institutions continue to collect and archive music in the region. There are small grass-roots recording companies, such as Heritage Records and County Records, dedicated to preserving community music. Local organizations such as the Blue Ridge Music Association sponsor workshops and gatherings to support and encourage traditional music. Churches in the region continue to hold gospel quartet performances and occasional shape-note sings.

With such well-established and active community music programs happening in the area, the appropriateness of presenting music on the parkway and the role of the National Park Service in traditional music must be carefully considered. Traditional music is a highly sensitive expression of community and personal values and requires considerable awareness in its presentation. Further, the temptation to romanticize or sanitize music for popular mainstream tastes must be avoided. With a careful and informed approach, NPS programs can greatly enhance parkway visitors' appreciation of Blue Ridge culture, and can contribute to the continuance of traditional music in the region.





# suitability

## of the study area for inclusion in blue ridge parkway

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The study area is adjacent to, and would be incorporated into, the Rocky Knob district of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which extends from milepost 144.3 to milepost 217. This district is known for splendid views of traditional Appalachian farm scenes as the parkway winds its way through pastures, meadows, and cultivated fields. Scattered dwellings and farm buildings accentuate the pastoral setting of this district. Because of its close visual ties with the Appalachian cultural heritage, this district has been a focal point for interpretive efforts explaining folklife and tradition.

The Mabry Mill complex at milepost 176 highlights the story of mountain industry and the importance of water power to the local economy prior to the coming of highways and electric power. Mabry Mill often is thought of as the hallmark symbol of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The mill's photogenic quality is revealed by its frequent appearances in the pages of magazines, advertisements, and art shows. For this and many other reasons, the Mabry Mill site is a popular visitor stop in the Rocky Knob district, and the site often becomes crowded while other sites in the district are underused.

Mabry Mill also is the major site in the district for impromptu gatherings where local musicians perform traditional folk music to the delight of thousands of Blue Ridge Parkway visitors. These local artists, serving as volunteers, play frequently at Mabry Mill and other locations; however, there are no designated sites for music presentations or active interpretation of music anywhere along the parkway. The establishment of such a site in the Fisher Peak area, 37 miles south of Mabry Mill, would be consistent with the interpretive themes and management goals for the district and help relieve the crowding at Mabry Mill.

The addition of the Fisher Peak area would complement the following major attributes of the Rocky Knob district:

The district has more representative agricultural/pastoral landscapes than other parkway sections.

In this district there is more opportunity for contact between parkway visitors and local residents.

The Park Service is the primary provider of recreation opportunities in this local area.

Counties here are well known as a focal point for music traditions, musicians, and events.

There are excellent views down to the Piedmont from the parkway as it follows the Blue Ridge Escarpment.

The interaction of mountain people with their environment, and the culture that has evolved and continues to evolve from it, are major ideas to be communicated in this district. The history and origins of the regional mountain culture is a story not told elsewhere on the parkway. An important message local and regional residents would like conveyed to parkway visitors is that mountain people are not "hillbillies" as they are often stereotyped, but are modern, friendly, and approachable. While this message might not be communicated directly, NPS interpretation of mountain culture should support these ideas. The use of traditional music to interpret mountain culture is appropriate. The character of the traditional music of the Blue Ridge, and how it differs from other music traditions, also is an appropriate story. Local programs do not interpret music in the context of the entire region, so such

interpretation would not duplicate existing programs. And in fact, this music can be interpreted in a national context, also, since musicians from this area have had a profound influence on the development of American popular music.

A set of goals have been established for the Rocky Knob district based on the purposes of the parkway, special attributes of the district, and the themes that can be interpreted there. These goals are to

provide visitors with a relaxing motor experience through a pastoral scene

engender in the public an understanding of historic and contemporary mountain culture

emphasize music as an important contribution of the region

take an active role in provision of year-round, resource-based recreation opportunities in the region (without competing with private enterprise)

protect the ecological integrity of identified natural environments

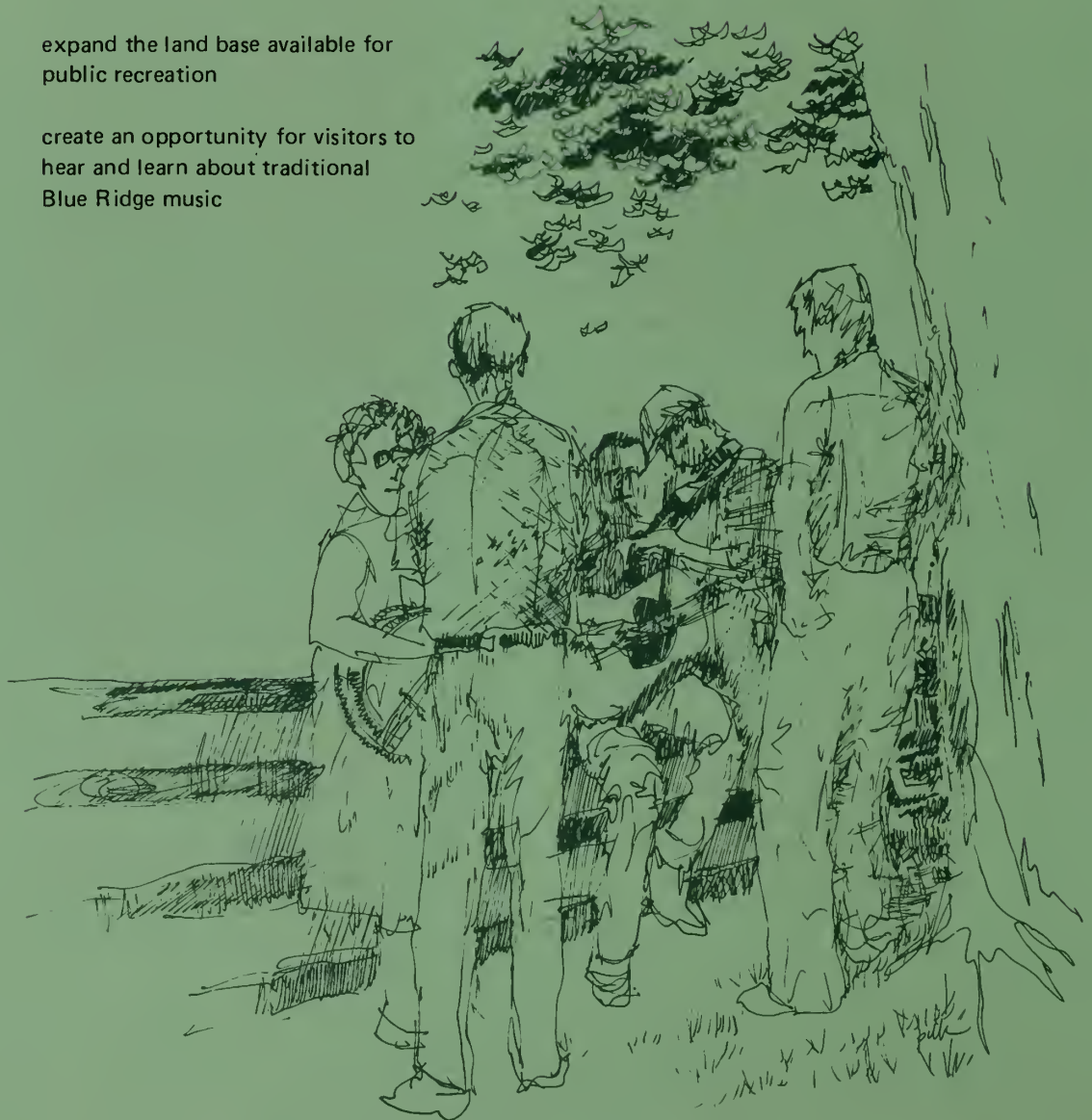
The addition of the Fisher Peak area and its use for the interpretation of

traditional Blue Ridge music would help achieve these goals in several ways. It would

protect the pastoral scene visible from the parkway

expand the land base available for public recreation

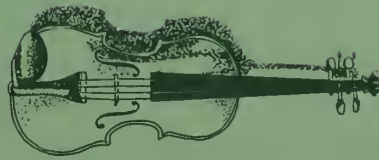
create an opportunity for visitors to hear and learn about traditional Blue Ridge music



# feasibility

## of public use and resource protection

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### PUBLIC INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

In early March 1988, informal scoping workshops were held by the National Park Service in the Galax, Virginia, area to solicit opinions and ideas about what type of facility and programs might be appropriate at Fisher Peak. Participants included individuals and representatives of regional organizations involved in traditional music, state and local officials, and other interested individuals. (See the "Consultation and Coordination" section.) Opinions varied, but several points were made repeatedly.

Many participants stressed that traditional music differs from popular commercial music in that traditional music is more participatory, spontaneous, and intimate than the more formal commercially staged performances. Further, traditional music is community-based and is best presented within the context of the local community. Several persons commented that the National Park Service should be sensitive to this community orientation and should develop interpretive programs that support and complement existing, 'well-established dances, fiddlers'

contests, and other local music activities. Programs that might compete with or detract from local events should be avoided.

There was general agreement that the most appropriate role for the National Park Service would be to interpret for national visitors the history and development of traditional Blue Ridge music and to provide opportunities for them to hear the music. Visitors could be exposed to traditional music through such programs as informal small-scale music presentations, exhibitry, audiovisual programs, demonstrations of instrument construction, and sales of books and recordings. An important function of an interpretive facility would be to direct interested visitors to events and activities in the surrounding communities.

Participants suggested many ideas they felt would be important to communicate to parkway visitors. The most frequently mentioned ideas were the diversity of music traditions in the Blue Ridge, the social role of music in mountain culture, the history and continuing dynamism of traditional music, and the contributions traditional Blue Ridge music has made to mainstream American music.

The sensitivity of traditional music to commercial and popular influences was repeatedly mentioned, and many participants cautioned that interpretive programs actually could disrupt folk traditions if improperly handled. Many people recommended that interpretation of traditional music should be guided by an advisory board knowledgeable about the music and familiar with the communities adjacent to the parkway. It was also suggested that the parkway hire a professionally trained folklorist, or someone with an equivalent background, to coordinate traditional music programs.

The primary environmental issue raised concerned water quality protection of the East Fork of Chestnut Creek as the drinking water source for Galax. Many speakers called for general environmental and aesthetic protection of the Fisher Peak area, as well as use of the site for outdoor recreation.

## SITE ANALYSIS

### Topography

Much of the approximately 2,000-acre basin of the East Fork of Chestnut Creek has steep slopes ranging from 20 to 80 percent. Small areas of relatively level ground are located near creeks in the hollows. Larger level areas with less than 12 percent slope occur at the lower elevations, and relatively level areas also occur on the tops of a few knolls and ridges.

Three developable sites of 8 or more acres with less than 10 percent slopes are shown on the Existing Conditions map. A preliminary reconnaissance indicated that the largest site (site 1) is probably also the best suited for development. Other smaller areas of developable land exist within the forested area of the basin; however, their small size would severely limit the facilities that could be built.

### Access

The Blue Ridge Parkway and Virginia 612 intersect inside the study area, and a third road, Virginia 89, intersects the parkway 2.5 miles south of the study area boundary (see the Vicinity map). The parkway is a recreational road on which commercial traffic is not permitted. Virginia

612 is a secondary gravel road that provides access to a few houses and fields and accommodates a variety of traffic, including commercial vehicles. Virginia 89 is the primary route between Galax, Virginia, and Mount Airy, North Carolina. Galax is 7 miles and Mount Airy 22 miles from the parkway by way of this route. The Fisher Peak road is the only other road of significance within the study area. This unimproved road takes off from Virginia 612 just east of the parkway and provides access to several houses and private property and eventually to the Fisher Peak summit. As it nears the peak, this road becomes increasingly steep and rugged.

With some additional road development, access to the study area would be excellent. An overpass would be required to eliminate the unsafe grade crossing at Virginia 612 while accommodating local farm and commercial traffic. Of the three developable sites, sites 1 and 2 are equally accessible. Site 3 is farther from the parkway and Virginia 612 and would involve correspondingly higher costs, environmental impacts, and construction and fire protection difficulties.

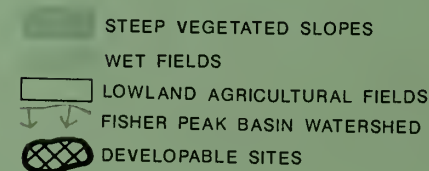
### FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

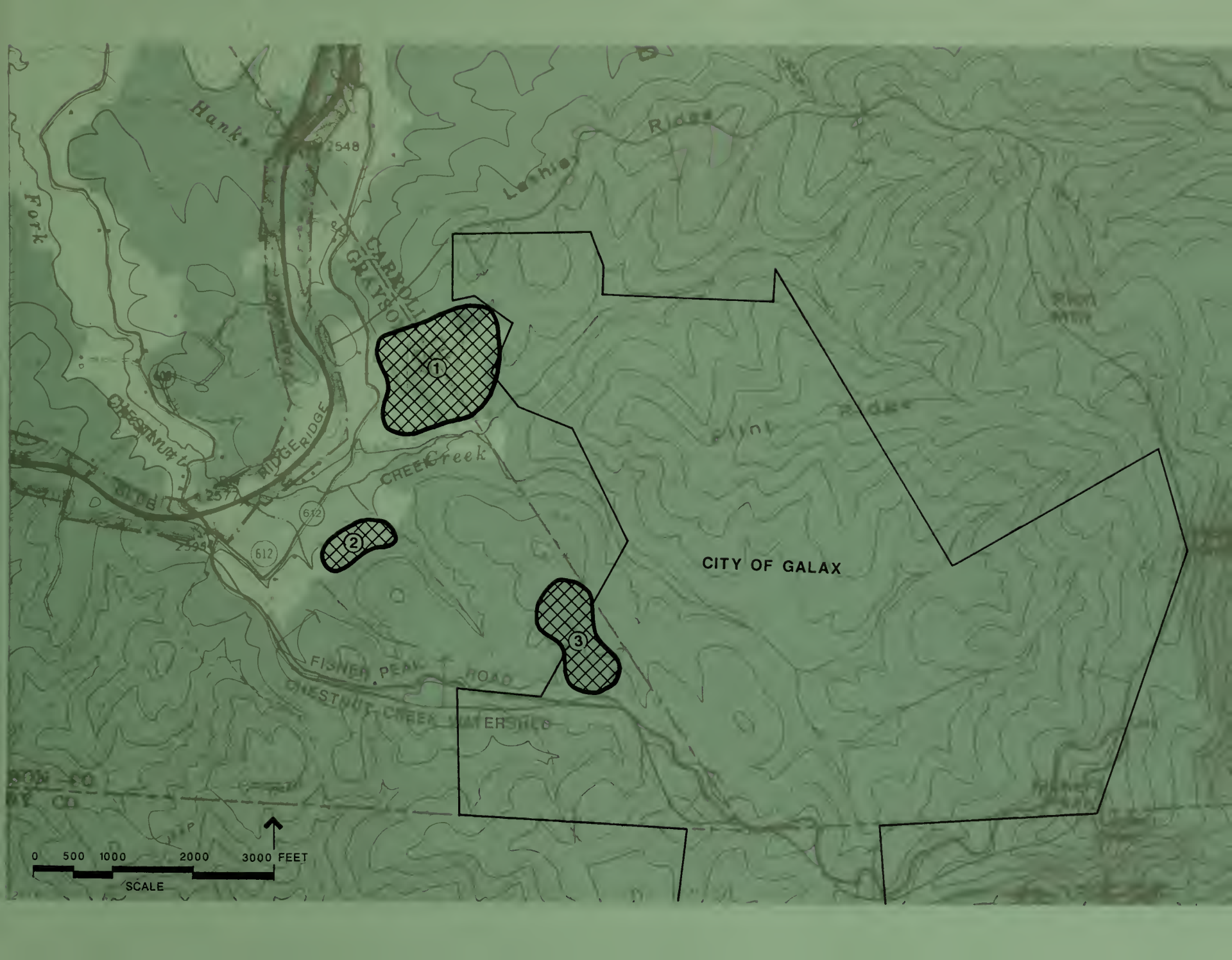
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Hank

548

Ridge

Lashley

CARROLL  
GRAYSON

1

CREEK

RIDGE

2

612

FISHER PEAK

ROAD

3

CHESTNUT CREEK WATERSHED

CITY OF GALAX

0 500 1000 2000 3000 FEET

SCALE

## Water Resources

The water quality of the East Fork of Chestnut Creek is extremely important, since the creek is a drinking-water source for Galax. The Virginia Water Control Board advises that, because the basin is within 15 miles of a municipal water intake, any wastewater treatment system involving point source discharge would require chlorination and dechlorination of effluent as well as backup treatment facilities ("class I reliability"). Septic and drainfield systems, which do not involve point source discharge, would be sited by the county health department based on soil capabilities. A preliminary review of the Carroll County Soil Survey indicated that lower slope soils in the basin are rated as "moderate" for drain fields, while both upper slope and creek bottom soils are rated as "severe." Engineers with the Virginia Water Control Board, the Virginia Public Health Service, and the Grayson County and Carroll County health departments agreed that a properly designed and operated sewage system would pose no pollution threat to Galax drinking water.

Although not required under Virginia regulations, any facilities should be designed with vegetated buffers to avoid direct drainage into creeks.

Nonporous surfaces should be minimized to support percolation and filtration of storm-water runoff.

The Virginia Water Control Board also advised that well water in the vicinity has good quality, although yield is sometimes limited. Two or more wells might be necessary to supply drinking water for public use facilities. Wells are usually less than 400 feet deep.

## Biological Resources

The study area has a variety of elevations, slopes, aspects, and therefore vegetation types. The basin sides are heavily wooded with second-growth oak forests, often with a dense understory of mountain laurel. Coves contain mixed hardwoods, white pine, hemlock, and rhododendron. Virginia and pitch pines dominate in recently abandoned fields. Areas near the bottom of the basin have been cleared for agriculture and are primarily used for pasture. Vegetation types are typical of the region.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advised that one federally listed endangered plant species, the small-whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) may grow within the study area. Although there are no specific records of the pogonia from the Fisher Peak

area, there are historical sightings of the plant in Surry County. The Fish and Wildlife Service further advised that two other species, Grays lily (*Lilium grayi*) and the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenburgi*), are candidates for future federal protection and could also be within the study area. Grays lily has been found on the Blue Ridge Escarpment east of the Fisher Peak ridgeline in Carroll County; and bog turtle, which is listed as endangered by the state of Virginia, has been recorded in sedge bogs along the parkway near the study area.

The Virginia Natural Heritage Program reports that the Yonahlossee salamander (*Plethodon yonahlossee*), listed by the state as endangered, and dew drop (*Dalibarda repens*), considered a rare plant in Virginia, may also be within the basin. The Yonahlossee salamander has been found in the past in the Fisher Peak basin, and the dew drop has been collected in damp areas in the region.

Prior to any development, surveys would be required to determine the actual presence of any state or federally protected species. Should such species be located, appropriate mitigating actions would be taken in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of Virginia.

## Archeological Resources

Based on preliminary site observations, review of archeological resources in the region, and study of topographical maps by archeologists in the NPS Southeast Archeological Center, the potential development sites in the basin have a high probability of containing aboriginal archeological sites ranging in age from 10,000 B.C. to A.D. 1675. Based on the suitability of this area for agriculture, it likely also contains historic archeological sites, some of which might date to the latter half of the 18th century. Prior to future site design, archeological surveys would be required.

## Wetlands and Floodplains

The area has not been surveyed for wetlands or floodplains. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of mapping the region as part of the National Wetlands Inventory, and the inventory is expected to be completed in October 1988. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has not prepared flood insurance rate maps for Carroll or Grayson counties. Based on site observations and analysis of aerial photographs by NPS planners, the area along the East Fork of Chestnut Creek (within the 2,600-foot contour on the

Lambsburg quadrangle) appears to have seasonally saturated soils but no standing water. Stream courses may be subject to infrequent shallow flooding. This area is labeled "wet fields" on the Existing Conditions map. More accurate floodplain and wetland data would be needed prior to site design.

## Farmlands

A soils survey by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service dated December 1967 has been published for Carroll County, but no soils survey is available for Grayson County. A preliminary review of the available soils data indicates that two soils classified as prime farmlands on low to moderate slopes (the Hatboro and Comus series) occur on bottomlands in the Carroll County portion of the study area, and it is likely that these soils extend into the bottomlands in Grayson County.

A field survey of the development zone within Grayson County would be required to determine conclusively whether prime and/or unique farmland would be affected.

Additional soils classified as important farmlands (loams of the Manor and Chester-Genelg series) are also known to occur within potential development

areas in Carroll County and may occur in Grayson County.

## Visual Analysis

The visibility of potential facilities would depend on three major factors: viewing point, topography, and vegetative cover. The Blue Ridge Parkway is the primary viewing point. The low point of the basin is at the parkway crossing of the East Fork of Chestnut Creek. People driving into the study area from either direction on the parkway have an elevated view of an expansive pastoral scene. Most of the agricultural lands can be seen when approaching from either direction. Beyond the agricultural lands, existing vegetation and ridges would hide development except on the tallest knolls.

The site that appears most suitable for development (site 1) would have limited visibility from the parkway. If public facilities were developed here, adequate signing and wide distribution of information about the facilities and programs would be very important.

## Utilities

Electric lines are located in the study area along Virginia 612 and the



lower portion of the Fisher Peak road. For homes in the area, water generally comes from wells, while wastewater is treated in septic systems.

Power costs would be lowest for the development sites closest to the existing lines (sites 1 and 2). Gravity-fed water systems would be least costly for sites at lowest elevations (also sites 1 and 2). Soils appear adequate for moderate septic tank/leachfield systems.

#### Site Analysis Summary

Topography and soils are the greatest constraints on development within the study area. The best development site (site 1) is an agricultural area of sloping fields near the parkway. The acreage is adequate to accommodate various levels of development, access is convenient from the parkway, and electricity is available nearby. Soils are suitable for wastewater leach fields, and the relatively low elevation is favorable for a gravity-fed water system. Site 2 would have similar benefits but is smaller. Development of site 3 would dramatically increase costs for access, electricity, water, and sewer because of the distance from existing facilities and topographic and soil constraints.

#### RESOURCE THREATS

There are few apparent threats to the resources of the basin. The city of Galax has managed its lands in the central portion of the basin in a natural condition, and this has protected much of the core area. Farming, which occurs at the mouth of the basin, is compatible with the scenic setting of the Blue Ridge Parkway. However, because of liability concerns, the basin is not open to public use, and the recreational potential is unrealized. The city cannot afford to regularly patrol the area, and unauthorized hunting and fishing are a problem. There is also a threat of inappropriate private development along the sides of the basin and adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Such development could further limit public access and disrupt the rural scene.



# alternatives

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Four public use alternatives are being considered for the Fisher Peak area. The first alternative focuses on the area's scenic and watershed values and calls for outdoor recreational use with minimum development. The other three alternatives, while also protecting Fisher Peak's natural values, present a range of developments for traditional music interpretation. The purposes of these three alternatives would be to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of Blue Ridge mountain culture through interpretation of music, and to support the preservation of indigenous Blue Ridge music.

Preliminary site drawings were prepared for each alternative to illustrate the approximate scale of the development and to provide a basis for identifying possible impacts. If and when actual site and facility design is undertaken, the final approved plans could differ considerably from the drawings shown here.



## ALTERNATIVE A: SCENIC PROTECTION

The primary objective under alternative A would be to protect pastoral views of the 200 acres of the Fisher Peak basin that are most visible from the parkway. These views could be protected through cooperative agreements with the city of Galax, local land use zoning, and/or acquisition of selected scenic easements with the intent of retaining the agricultural landscape adjacent to the parkway.

In addition, hiking trails could be developed within the basin by state and local governments or the private sector to take advantage of vistas from the peak and other points along the way. The National Park Service would provide technical assistance in designing such trails and would provide trailhead parking for 5 to 10 cars and a comfort station within the parkway right-of-way as part of a cooperative effort (see Alternative A map).

FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA

## ALTERNATIVE A: SCENIC PROTECTION

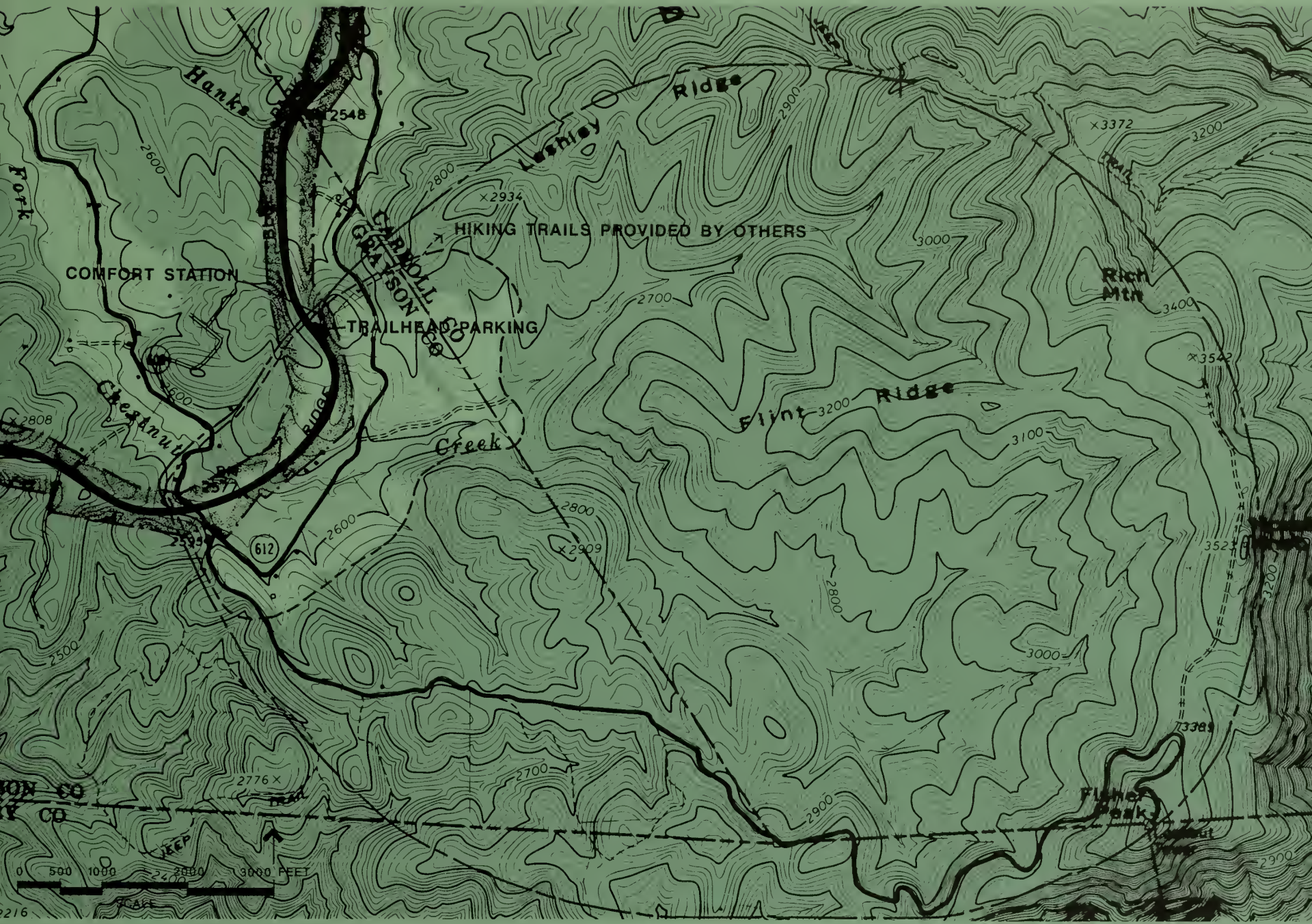
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----- FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA  
————— EXISTING UNPAVED ROAD  
----- AREA OF NPS INVOLVEMENT (APPROXIMATE)





## ALTERNATIVE B: FISHER PEAK PICNIC AREA/INFORMAL MUSIC GROUNDS

In alternative B, visitors would interact informally with musicians at a picnic area where casual musical activities would be encouraged. These activities could include family reunions, impromptu presentations by local string bands who come to play on sunny Sunday afternoons, occasional dance demonstrations, and other informal activities related to traditional music. Facilities would be limited to picnic tables, some group picnic shelters, restrooms, parking for 100 cars (with capability for 100-car overflow), and walkways to and between picnic sites (see Alternative B map). Because several groups could be playing at the same time, particularly on weekends, picnic sites and landscaping would be designed to separate groups. Visitors could stroll from group to group to listen and watch.

The developed site, totaling roughly 30 acres, would be owned in fee by the National Park Service, which would also provide and operate all the facilities there. An advisory board of individuals knowledgeable about traditional Blue Ridge music and the local communities would be formed to assist in music program planning and

implementation. In this alternative, the picnic area would not be regularly staffed, and it would be closed during low-use winter months (November through March).

Scenic, watershed, and recreational values in the remainder of the basin would be protected through the cooperative efforts of the National Park Service, state and local governments, and private individuals. A long-term commitment by the city of Galax to protect resource values and to allow for public recreation on the city's watershed tract would be an important part of this alternative. This could be accomplished through a cooperative agreement or an easement donated to the National Park Service. The Park Service would accept donations, acquire conservation easements, and acquire selected tracts in fee to adequately provide for scenic protection and trail access on the approximately 600 acres between the parkway and the city land. Including the 1,016-acre tract belonging to the city, the area of NPS involvement would total as much as 1,600 acres. Hiking trails into the basin and to the summit of Fisher Peak could be developed as a cooperative effort of the National Park Service, state and local governments, and private organizations.

As an essential part of this alternative, the state of Virginia would realign VA 612 to avoid the proposed developed area and to remove the existing intersection with the Blue Ridge Parkway.

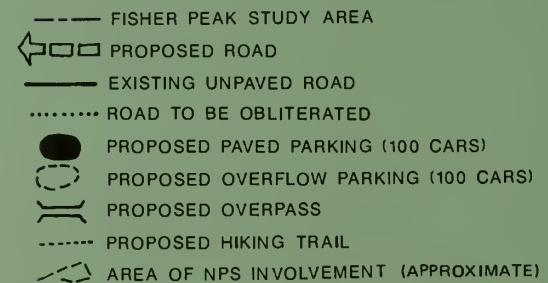
### FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA

## ALTERNATIVE B: FISHER PEAK PICNIC AREA / INFORMAL MUSIC GROUNDS

### BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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## **ALTERNATIVE C: BLUE RIDGE MUSIC INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND FISHER PEAK NATURAL AREA**

In this alternative the entire study area would become a unit of the Blue Ridge Parkway, where the National Park Service would actively interpret Blue Ridge mountain culture, support structured and unstructured musical gatherings, and provide opportunities for hiking, nature study, and other low-impact outdoor recreation. The picnic area described in alternative B would become part of a larger complex with a center for visitor orientation and interpretation. People stopping at the center would get general information about the parkway and more specific information about the Rocky Knob district, and also learn about opportunities to experience traditional music, dance, or other aspects of mountain culture throughout the area. Exhibits, films, demonstrations, and other interpretive programs and media would be used to explain Blue Ridge Mountain culture through its traditional music. These interpretive programs would emphasize the history, character, and development of traditional music as it has influenced and been influenced by mountain people's lives and culture. Interpretation would be supplemented

by sales of books and recordings relevant to the interpretive themes established for the Rocky Knob district. Before the facility was designed, an interpretive plan would be prepared, fully outlining the stories to be told and identifying the most effective media for presenting information.

The interpretive center staff, with the assistance of an advisory board (as described for alternative B), would schedule and host a variety of music and dance demonstrations, emphasizing local performers and traditions. These programs could take place in an amphitheater that would accommodate approximately 300 people, in a 100-seat audiovisual room, and in the picnic area, and they could include structured as well as very informal presentations, music-related craft demonstrations, participatory activities, and occasional small-scale music events. Care would be taken in all cases to avoid conflicts or competition with activities and events taking place locally or regionally.

A system of hiking trails through the East Fork of the Chestnut Creek basin would be developed by the National Park Service. Interpretive media could be provided for some trails, particularly those that would be

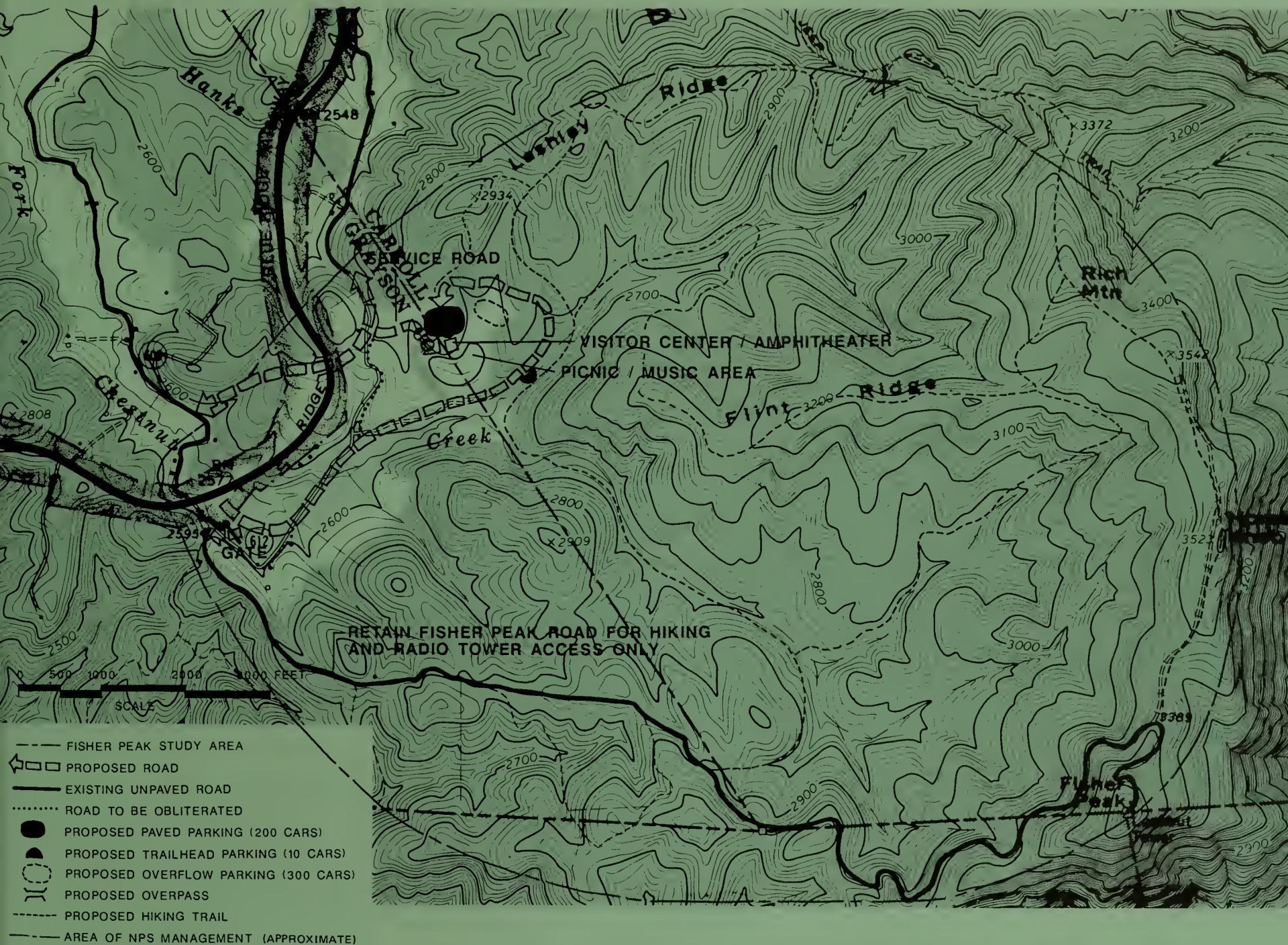
handicap-accessible. Trailhead parking for 5 to 10 cars would be separate from the proposed interpretive center.

Lands needed for NPS facilities would be purchased in fee and would total at least 50 acres. Interests in other lands in and adjoining the basin would be sought to provide for public access and recreation and to protect and manage scenic quality and natural and cultural resources. Such interests would be obtained through cooperative programs with state and local governments, donation, and fee and less-than-fee acquisition. About 2,300 acres would be involved. Donation of the Galax watershed tract would be essential to the implementation of this alternative.

As in alternative B, VA 612 would have to be realigned by the state. The National Park Service would also look to the state to acquire access rights to the Fisher Peak road for the purposes of removing private vehicle use and protecting adjoining land from inappropriate development.

## **FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA ALTERNATIVE C: BLUE RIDGE MUSIC INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND FISHER PEAK NATURAL AREA**

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY**  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





## ALTERNATIVE D: BLUE RIDGE MUSIC PERFORMANCE CENTER AND FISHER PEAK RECREATION AREA

Alternative D, like alternative C, would incorporate the whole basin into the Blue Ridge Parkway. Programs and developments in alternative D would emphasize more formal, larger-scale performances, festivals, and other events and would include more intensive recreational use of the basin.

The development described for alternatives B and C would be expanded to include a performance hall and large amphitheater. In all, the center would have a parking and seating capacity to accommodate 5,000 or more people for a large event. In addition, there would be studio space in the visitor center for periodic radio broadcasting and recording of traditional music and musicians. Archive and collection spaces would provide for documentation, preservation, and study of music traditions.

The National Park Service would oversee the nature and quality of all programs with the assistance of an advisory board as described in alternative B. The Park Service would retain responsibility for visitor

orientation and exhibitry. Other activities, such as managing and interpreting traditional music presentations, could be conducted by a nonprofit organization whose purpose would be to support and present for public appreciation traditional Blue Ridge music.

In addition to hiking trails as described in alternative C, a shuttle bus could take visitors to the Fisher Peak summit, if such a system proved to be economically feasible for a concessioner to operate. Associated with the shuttle system, an observation platform would be constructed on the summit with signs to orient visitors to the views of the Piedmont and the Blue Ridge.

Land and facility ownership and management would be as described in alternative C, except that fee ownership of NPS developed areas would total at least 100 acres.







### FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA

## ALTERNATIVE D: BLUE RIDGE MUSIC PERFORMANCE CENTER AND FISHER PEAK RECREATIONAL AREA

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- FISHER PEAK STUDY AREA
-  PROPOSED ROAD
- EXISTING UNPAVED ROAD
- ..... ROAD TO BE OBLITERATED
-  PROPOSED PAVED PARKING (200 CARS)
-  PROPOSED TRAILHEAD PARKING (10 CARS)
-  PROPOSED OVERFLOW PARKING (1500 CARS)
-  PROPOSED OVERPASS
- PROPOSED HIKING TRAIL
- AREA OF NPS MANAGEMENT (APPROXIMATE)
-  PROPOSED TRAILHEAD PARKING (10 CARS)





## PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

The music center interpretive facilities envisioned for alternatives C and D would be operated by the National Park Service. An educational material sales area featuring books, recordings, and other appropriate items would be operated by a nonprofit cooperating association.

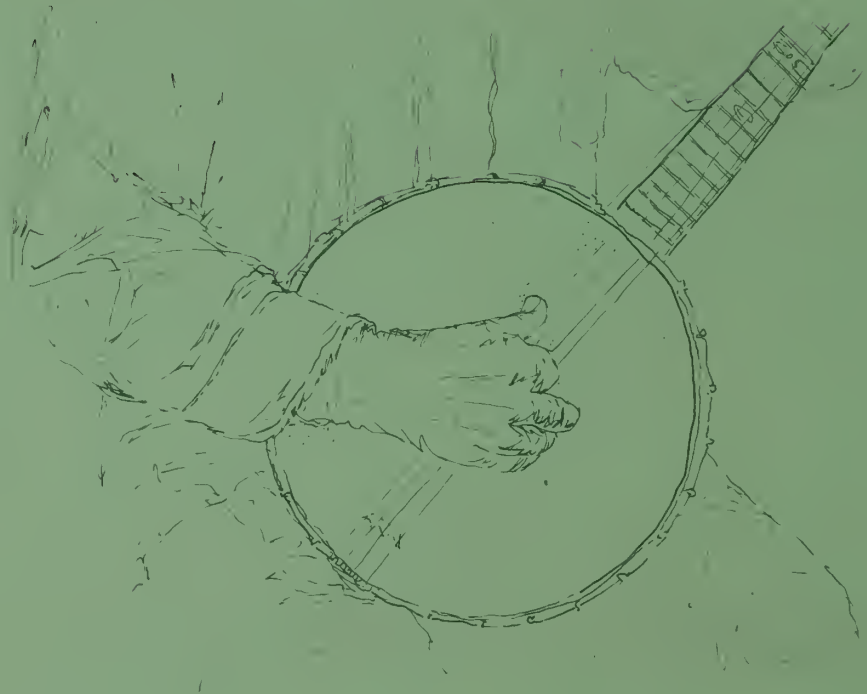
Cultural demonstrations relating to traditional music would be provided by craftspersons, performers, and artists who would not be park employees. In order to provide greater incentive for demonstrators to participate and to support traditional arts, they would be allowed to sell their products. Acquisition of these authentic examples of traditional arts would give purchasers a lasting educational reminder of their visit to the music center.

Management and coordination of performances and other activities at the center and on the grounds would be arranged with the assistance of an advisory council made up of recognized authorities in the traditional Appalachian music field. The council would assess the appropriateness and desirability of various presentations and make recommendations to park management.

There are no plans to provide camping, food, lodging, or automotive services at the center since ample opportunities are provided nearby by private enterprise. Because musical events lasting several hours may occasionally occur on the site, snack foods could be provided by caterers or vending machines.

## COSTS

Preliminary estimates of development costs, land protection costs, and staffing needs are shown on tables 1-3.





**Table 1: Preliminary Cost Estimate**

<b>Development</b>	<b>Gross Construction Costs</b>	<b>Advanced and Project Planning Costs</b>	<b>Total Project Costs</b>
<b>Alternative A</b>			
Parking area (10 cars, paved)	\$ 21,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 25,000
Comfort station (vault toilet)	33,000	6,000	39,000
<b>Total, NPS Development</b>			<b>\$ 64,000</b>
<b>Alternative B</b>			
Picnic area (10 group sites)	\$ 346,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 412,000
2 comfort stations (800 sq ft)	314,000	60,000	374,000
Parking area (100 cars, paved)	170,000	33,000	203,000
Parking area (100 cars, stabilized turf)	105,000	20,000	125,000
Hiking trails (5 miles)	197,000	38,000	235,000
Utilities (water, sewer, electricity)	269,000	51,000	320,000
Entry road (3,750 lin ft)	982,000	187,000	1,170,000
Obliterate existing road (5,300 lin ft)	47,000	9,000	56,000
<b>Subtotal, NPS Development</b>			<b>\$ 2,895,000</b>
Realign VA 612 (3,250 lin ft)	852,000	163,000	\$ 1,015,000
Overpass (40 x 100)	786,000	150,000	936,000
<b>Subtotal, State Road Work</b>			<b>\$ 1,951,000</b>
<b>Alternative C</b>			
Picnic area (10 group sites)	\$ 346,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 412,000
2 comfort stations (800 sq ft)	314,000	60,000	374,000
Parking area (200 cars, paved)	314,000	60,000	374,000
Parking area (200 cars, stabilized turf)	210,000	40,000	250,000
Hiking trails (10 miles)	393,000	75,000	468,000
Interpretive trail (0.5 mile, paved)	46,000	9,000	55,000
Utilities (water, sewer, electricity)	1,153,000	220,000	1,373,000
Visitor center (10,000 sq ft)	2,620,000	500,000	3,120,000
Amphitheater (300 people, grass)	157,000	30,000	187,000
Entry road (8,250 lin ft)	2,162,000	412,000	2,574,000
Service road (1,000 lin ft)	262,000	50,000	312,000
Obliterate existing roads (5,300 lin ft)	47,000	9,000	56,000
<b>Subtotal, NPS Development</b>			<b>\$ 9,555,000</b>
Realign VA 612 (3,250 lin ft)	852,000	163,000	1,015,000
Overpass (40 x 100)	786,000	150,000	936,000
Access rights			800,000
<b>Subtotal, State Road Work</b>			<b>\$ 2,751,000</b>

#### Alternative D

Picnic area (10 group sites)	\$ 346,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 412,000
2 comfort stations (800 sq ft)	314,000	60,000	374,000
Parking area (200 cars, paved)	314,000	60,000	374,000
Parking area (200 cars, stabilized turf)	1,572,000	300,000	1,872,000
Hiking trails (10 miles)	393,000	75,000	468,000
Interpretive trail (0.5 mile, paved)	46,000	9,000	55,000
Utilities (water, sewer, electricity)	1,310,000	250,000	1,560,000
Visitor center (15,000 sq ft)	3,930,000	750,000	4,680,000
Amphitheater (5,000 people, seats)	4,585,000	875,000	5,460,000
Entry road (8,250 lin ft)	2,162,000	412,000	2,574,000
Service road (1,000 lin ft)	262,000	50,000	312,000
Obliterate existing roads (5,300 lin ft)	47,000	9,000	56,000
New Fisher Peak road (10,500 lin ft)	2,751,000	525,000	3,276,000
Subtotal, NPS Development			\$21,473,000
Realign VA 612 (3,250 lin ft)	852,000	163,000	1,015,000
Overpass (40 x 100)	786,000	150,000	936,000
Access rights			800,000
Subtotal, State Road Work			\$ 2,751,000





Table 2: Estimated Land Protection Costs

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Area of NPS Involvement	200 ac	1,600 ac	2,300 ac	2,300 ac
Donation of City Lands	0	1,016 ac (conservation and public use easement)	1,016 ac	1,016 ac
Land Protection Costs*	\$200,000	\$600,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000

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\* Land cost estimates are precursory and are given only to indicate the potential scale of costs; a detailed analysis of realty values by the NPS Division of Land Resources will be necessary to determine actual costs.

Table 3: Estimated Staff Increases

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Maintenance	—	1 seasonal	2 full time	3 full time
Interpretation	—	—	1 full time 2 seasonal	1 full time 2 seasonal
Protection	—	—	1 full time	1 full time 1 seasonal

# assessment of alternatives

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## SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Each of the alternatives responds to a lesser or greater extent to parkway goals and public concerns. While alternative A would result in the least impacts on natural and cultural resources and would meet the objective of providing some additional resource-based recreation opportunities, it would not meet cultural interpretation objectives, nor would it contribute to the support of traditional music. Alternative B would disturb more resource area than alternative A, but it would also provide increased recreation opportunities because of the provision of the picnic area and trail system. Local musicians would have additional opportunities to play for park visitors, but only minimum, incidental interpretation would occur.

Construction of a building in alternative C would increase the potential for environmental impacts under this alternative, but the new center would allow the National Park Service to meet cultural interpretation objectives. Traditional music would be supported by increased performance opportunities for local musicians as well as by increased public appreciation of Blue Ridge culture through interpretation. More

active involvement in music programs by the National Park Service could somewhat increase the potential for impacts on traditional music and its natural development; however, the intent of the alternative would be to support local traditional music by educating and informing a broader public about the music and where to experience it in its community context. Resource-based recreation opportunities would be increased over alternatives A and B, as would management and protection of cultural and natural resources.

Alternative D, because of the magnitude of development and programming, would have the most potential for impacts on the environment and on traditional music. Interpretive programs would have maximum potential for the greatest depth and breadth of content and would have perhaps the greatest attraction for regional and national visitors. However, that very potential could result in negative effects on cultural traditions by encouraging emphasis on large-scale performances rather than more intimate, community-based music activities. Some functions, such as archiving, recording, and documenting music, might be redundant with local and regional facilities. The large performance spaces could be

underutilized much of the time, and there would be a risk of misdirecting the interpretive program toward more popular, rather than traditional, music presentations simply to fill the facilities. To a large extent, alternative D would create a self-contained entertainment center, which could be perceived as competing with established community music events rather than supporting and complementing them. Recreational opportunities would be provided at a somewhat increased scale as compared to the other alternatives but at a sizable increase in expense.

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY IN THE GALAX MUNICIPAL WATERSHED

Alternative A poses little change that would affect water quality in the East Fork of Chestnut Creek. The possibility of affecting water quality would increase proportionately under alternatives B through D as the level of development and visitor use increased. The levels of use described in all alternatives could be accommodated with no adverse impacts on drinking water quality for Galax. The design, construction, and operation of wastewater treatment facilities under any of the alternatives would meet NPS, Virginia Water Control Board, and state and county public health department requirements. Relative to the other alternatives, alternative D would require a significant increase in costs and complexity of wastewater treatment facilities because of the large fluctuations in visitation between normal daily use and occasional large events. Under that alternative it might be necessary to supplement a septic system with a pump and haul system to adequately handle sewage during large events.

Layout of parking areas would incorporate vegetation buffers or sand filters to control storm water runoff quality. No effect on water quality

would be expected from daytime public use of hiking trails. To protect water quality, neither horseback riding nor overnight backcountry use would be permitted under any alternative.

## POTENTIAL AREA DISTURBED BY DEVELOPMENT

Table 4 summarizes the land cover types and estimated acreages affected by the alternatives. These estimates were derived to show the scale of possible impacts based on the preliminary site drawings shown on the alternatives maps.

Table 4: Disturbed Areas, Alternatives A–D

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Sloping fields	0.5	6.5	10.0	24.0
Wet fields	0	1.5	1.5	1.5
Forest	2.5	3.0	4.5	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>



## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES**

Alternative A would have no effect on protected species. The new entry road envisioned under alternatives B, C, and D could possibly affect dew drop and bog turtle habitat. Neither species has been reported from the site, but the wet field area may contain habitat for both. Effects on the dew drop and the turtle could be mitigated, if the species are actually present, by realigning the entry road and providing adequate culverts or other drainage structures. The other development sites under alternatives B through D would be unlikely to contain habitat for any of the listed species.

Isolated populations of small-whorled pogonia, Grays lily, and Yonahloosee salamander might exist in the forested portion of the basin. If any of these species were located, proposed foot trails would avoid the populations.

## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

As described in the site analysis section, there is a high probability of prehistoric and historic archeological resources within the project area.

An archeological evaluation conducted prior to a final site design would determine the significance of archeological resources on the site and could result in redesigning proposed facilities to avoid archeological features. If disturbance to archeological resources was determined to be unavoidable, then full archeological mitigation would be undertaken in accordance with executive order 11593 ("Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"). If a future archeological evaluation located resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, then full compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, would be required.

## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS**

As previously mentioned, there are no floodplain or wetland maps available for the project area, and site-specific surveys would be necessary. It is likely that the wet fields shown on the Existing Conditions map are subject to occasional shallow flooding. Alternative A would have no effect on this area. The entry road under alternatives B, C, and D would occupy as much as 1.5 acres of the wet fields. According to NPS guidelines,

construction of entry roads through floodplains is excepted from compliance with executive order 11988 ("Floodplain Management") so long as floodproofing is a consideration in design and construction.

It is not clear if any of the wet field area qualifies as wetlands. If so, then the entry road would be realigned to avoid adverse wetland impacts in compliance with executive order 11990 ("Protection of Wetlands").

## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON FARMLANDS**

Although a site-specific soil survey has not been undertaken for the Fisher Peak basin, it is likely that wet fields at the site contain soils classified as "prime farmland" by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and that portions of the sloping fields contain soils classified as "important farmlands" (see Site Analysis). No soil types have been identified as "unique." Table 5 compares the alternatives for possible impacts on farmlands.

Table 5: Impacts on Farmlands, Alternatives A–D

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Disturbance to prime farmland soils	0	1.5 acres or less	1.5 acres or less	1.5 acres or less
Disturbance to important farmland soils	0.5 acre or less	less than 6.5 acres	less than 10.0 acres	less than 24 acres

Under all alternatives the majority of the acres now used for agriculture would continue to be farmed. The maximum amount of agricultural land committed to public recreation (25.5 acres in alternative D) would not significantly affect the regional production of food, fiber, or forage crops.



# consultation and coordination

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Hoyt Rath, Chief of Interpretation, North District  
Jim Ryan, Management Assistant

### NPS Southeastern Archeological Center

Jack Walker, Archeologist

### NPS Denver Service Center

Nat Kuykendall, Natural Resource Specialist (Team Captain)  
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Terri Urbanowski, Landscape Architect

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Carroll County  
Donna Graham, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Boucher  
Bob Haefner, Virginia's Southwest Blue Ridge Highlands  
Pam Jewell, Virginia Division of Tourism  
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Olen Gardner, Musician/Interpreter  
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Susan Shaw Thomas, Publisher, The Mountain Magazine  
Harold Snead, City Manager, Galax  
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Robert Walker, Cima Productions, Inc.  
Glen Wilson, City of Galax



## **AGENCIES CONSULTED**

### **Federal Agencies**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

### **State Agencies**

Virginia Department of Public Health

Virginia Division of Tourism

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Virginia Water Control Board

### **Local Agencies**

Carroll County Health Department

Carroll County Industrial and Commercial Commission

Grayson County Health Department

Galax City Managers Office

## APPENDIX: PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS AND ESTIMATED SPACE REQUIREMENTS

The following design concepts were considered important during the initial stages of this project, and they are compiled here to encourage more detailed analysis in the future. These ideas originate from the concerns of representatives of the music community about programming needs for the proposed music center. This group emphasized that traditional music is participatory and spontaneous; therefore, any facility design should retain an intimate scale and welcoming atmosphere. Native materials and vernacular architectural elements should be emphasized in keeping with the design theme of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The use of wood in structures, particularly for flooring where dancing would be featured, is especially important because of its acoustical, aesthetic, and historical qualities. During future and more detailed design phases, these concepts will be refined to establish more site-specific layout, facility design, capacities, and materials.

In designing a group picnic area to also serve as an informal gathering place for musicians and spectators, the

individual sites should be configured to encourage clustering of music and dance groups, while maintaining some audio separation between clusters. In such settings, musicians tend to gather near trees, along fences, and around tables. Shade and shelter are important requirements. Some of these sites should include shelters and a few should be accessible by vehicles; however, most of the picnic/music area should be free of vehicular traffic. Movable furniture should be considered to serve a variety of functions and group sizes.

To the extent practical, the picnic/music facilities should be located within view of the Blue Ridge Parkway to draw visitors and musicians to the site. To retain the balance with the pastoral scene, sites should be located to blend with the existing landscape. Cars and parking should be screened.

It has been suggested that if a visitor center is built, it should have an auditorium and stage with doors that open to an outdoor amphitheater (similar to the auditorium and amphitheater in the Folk Art Center in Asheville). The visitor center should also be visually connected to the picnic/music area, if both facilities are developed.

The addition of a visitor center would necessitate the inclusion of a service drive, and this drive would have to connect to VA 612, since commercial traffic is not allowed on the parkway.

The estimated space requirements for the facilities included in the four alternatives are listed in the following table.

### Estimated Space Requirements

Alternative A	Enclosed Space	Acreage
Parking (10 cars)		0.1 ac
Restroom	800 sq ft	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800 sq ft</b>	<b>0.1 ac</b>
<b>Alternative B</b>		
Picnic Area (10 group sites)		4 ac
Restroom	800 sq ft	
Parking (100 cars paved, 100 cars unpaved)		2 ac
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800 sq ft</b>	<b>6 ac</b>
<b>Alternative C</b>		
Picnic Area (10 group sites)		4 ac
Restroom	800 sq ft	
Parking (200 cars paved, 300 cars unpaved)		5 ac
Amphitheater (300 people)		0.1 ac
Visitor center		
lobby/demonstration space	2,000 sq ft	
exhibits	2,000 sq ft	
auditorium (100 people)	1,250 sq ft	
sales	300 sq ft	
office (4-6 offices)	1,000 sq ft	
restrooms	800 sq ft	
HVAC*	1,840 sq ft	
Subtotal, visitor center	9,200 sq ft	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,000 sq ft</b>	<b>9.1 ac</b>

Alternative D		
Picnic Area (10 group sites)		4 ac
Restroom	1,600 sq ft	
Parking (200 cars paved, 1,500 cars unpaved)		15 ac
Amphitheater (5,000 people)		2 ac
Visitor Center		
lobby/demonstration space	3,000 sq ft	
exhibits	2,000 sq ft	
auditorium (250 people)	3,125 sq ft	
sales	500 sq ft	
office (6-8 offices)	1,500 sq ft	
restrooms	1,600 sq ft	
HVAC*	2,900 sq ft	
Subtotal, visitor center	11,725 sq ft	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14, 625 sq ft</b>	<b>21 ac</b>

\*Includes an additional 25 percent of total area for hallways and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) mechanical systems



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Jim Ryan, Management Assistant  
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### SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Ralph Bullard, Park Planner

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, and parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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